Numb. 243

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Infert ſe Sceptis Nebula, mirabile dictu
Per medios, miſcetque Viris, neque cernitur ulli. Virg.

From *Thurſday October* 26. to *Saturday October* 28. 1710.

From my own Apartment, October 27.

I Have ſomewhere made Mention of *Gyges*'s Ring, and intimated to my Reader, that it was at preſent in my Poſſeſſion, tho' I have not ſince made any Uſe of it. The Tradition concerning this Ring is very Romantick, and taken Notice of both by *Plato* and *Tully*, who each of them make an admirable Uſe of it for the Advancement of Morality. This *Gyges* was the Maſter Shepherd to King *Candaules*. As he was wandering over the Plains of *Lydia*, he ſaw a great Cavn in the Earth, and had the Curioſity to enter it. After having deſcended pretty far into it, he found the Statue of an Horſe in Braſs, with Doors in the Sides of it. Upon opening of them, he found the Body of a dead Man bigger than ordinary, with a Ring upon his Finger, which he took off, and put it upon his own. The Virtues of it were much greater than he at firſt imagined; for upon his going into the Aſſembly of Shepherds, he obſerved, that he was inviſible when he turned the Stone of the Ring within the Palm of his Hand, and viſible when he turned it towards his Company. Had *Plato* and *Cicero* been as well verſed in the Occult Sciences as I am, they would have found a great deal of Myſtick Learning in this Tradition; but it is impoſſible for an Adept to be underſtood by one who is not an Adept.

As for my ſelf, I have with much Study and Application arrived at this great Secret of making my ſelf inviſible, and by that Means conveying my ſelf where I pleaſed; or to ſpeak in Roſycrucian Lore, I have entered into the Clefts of the Earth, diſcovered the Brazen Horſe, and robbed the dead Giant of his Ring. The Tradition ſays further of *Gyges*, that by the Means of this Ring he gained Admiſſion into the moſt retired Parts of the Court, and made ſuch Uſe of thoſe Opportunities, that he at length became King of *Lydia*. For my own Part, I, who have always rather endeavoured to improve my Mind than my Fortune, have turned this Ring to no other Advantage than to get a thorough Inſight into the Ways of Men, and to make ſuch Obſervations upon the Errors of others as may be uſeful to the Publick, whatever Effect they may have upon my ſelf.

About a Week ago, not being able to ſleep, I got up and put on my magical Ring, and with a Thought tranſported my ſelf into a Chamber where I ſaw a Light. I found it inhabited by a celebrated Beauty, tho' ſhe is of that Species of Women which we call a Slattern. Her Head-dreſs and one of her Shoes lay upon a Chair, her Petticoat in one Corner of the Room, and her Girdle, that had a Copy of Verſes made upon it but the Day before, with her Thread Stockings, in the middle of the Floor. I was ſo fooliſhly officious, that I could not forbear gathering up her Cloaths together to lay them upon the Chair that ſtood by her Bed-ſide, when, to my great Surpriſe, after a little Muttering, ſhe cried out, *What do you do? Let my Petticoat alone.* I was ſtartled at firſt, but ſoon found that ſhe was in a Dream; being one of thoſe who, to uſe *Shakeſpeare*'s Expreſſion, are *ſo looſe of Thought*, that they utter in their Sleep every Thing that paſſes in their Imagination. I left the Apartment of this Female Rake, and went into her Neighbours, where there lay a Male-Coquet. He had a Bottle of Salts hanging over his Head, and upon the Table, by his Bed-ſide, *Suckling*'s Poems, with a little Heap of Black Patches on it. His Snuff Box was within Reach on a Chair: But while I was admiring the Diſpoſition which he made of the ſeveral Parts of his Dreſs, his Slumber ſeemed interrupted by a Pang, that was accompanied by a ſudden Oath, as he turned himſelf over haſtily in his Bed. I did not care for ſeeing him in his nocturnal Pains, and left the Room.

I was no ſooner got into another Bed-Chamber, but I heard very harſh Words uttered in a ſmooth uniform Tone. I was amazed to hear ſo great a Volubility in Reproach, and thought it too coherent to be ſpoken by one aſleep; but upon looking nearer, I ſaw the Head-dreſs of the Perſon who ſpoke, which ſhewed her to be a Female with a Man lying by her Side broad awake, and as quiet as a Lamb. I could not but admire his exemplary Patience, and diſcovered by his whole Behaviour, that he was then lying under the Diſcipline of a Curtain-Lecture.

I was entertained in many other Places with this Kind of Nocturnal Eloquence, but obſerved, that moſt of thoſe whom I found awake, were kept ſo either by Envy or by Love. Some of theſe were ſighing, and others curſing, in Soliloquy; ſome hugged

hugged their Pillows, and others gnaſhed their Teeth.

The Covetous I likewiſe found to be a very wakeful People. I happened to come into a Room where one of them lay ſick. His Phyſician and his Wife were in cloſe Whiſper near his Bed-ſide. I overheard the Doctor ſay to the poor Gentlewoman, he cannot poſſibly live till Five in the Morning. She received it like the Miſtreſs of a Family prepared for all Events. At the ſame Inſtant came in a Servant Maid, who ſaid, *Madam, The Undertaker is below according to your Order.* The Words were ſcarce out of her Mouth, when the ſick Man cried out with a feeble Voice, Pray, Doctor, how went Bank-Stock to Day at *'Change?* This melancholy Object made me too ſerious for diverting my ſelf further this Way: But as I was going Home, I ſaw a Light in a Garret, and entring into it, heard a Voice crying, *And, Hand, Stand, Band, Fann'd, Tann'd.* I concluded him by this and the Furniture of his Room to be a Lunatick; but upon liſtening a little longer, perceived it was a Poet, writing an Heroick upon the enſuing Peace.

It was now towards Morning, an Hour when Spirits, Witches, and Conjurers are obliged to retire to their own Apartments, and feeling the Influence of it, I was haſtening Home, when I ſaw a Man had got half Way into a Neighbour's Houſe. I immediately called to him, and turning my Ring, appeared in my proper Perſon. There is ſomething Magiſterial in the Aſpect of the *Bickerſtaffs*, which made him run away in Confuſion.

As I took a Turn or Two in my own Lodging, I was thinking, that, old as I was, I need not go to Bed alone, but that it was in my Power to marry the fineſt Lady in this Kingdom, if I would wed her with this Ring. For what a Figure would ſhe that ſhould have it make at a Viſit, with ſo perfect a Knowledge as this would give her of all the Scandal in the Town? But inſtead of endeavouring to diſpoſe of my ſelf and it in Matrimony, I reſolved to lend it to my loving Friend the Author of the *Atalantis*, to furniſh a new *Secret Hiſtory* of *Secret Memoirs.*

Errata *in laſt* Tueſday's Tatler; *Col.* 1. *Line* 12. *for* againſt them, *read* againſt than. *In laſt* Thurſday's, *Col.* 1. *Line* 33. for *The beſt good Man, and moſt ill-natur'd Muſe*, read *The beſt good Man, with the worſt-natur'd Muſe. In the laſt Line but one of the ſame Col. for* a Sire, *read* on Fire.

Advertiſements.

AT the Two Brick Pillars on the Weſt Side of Kenſington-Square, a very handſome Houſe and Garden, being an Eſtate of inheritance, is to be ſold or let, furniſhed or unfurniſhed. Enquire of Mr. Rampane, Attorney at Law, near the Bell-Tavern in King-ſtreet, Weſtminſter, or at the Houſe.

ALL Sorts of fine Silks and Mercery Goods for Blank Lottery Tickets, at 7 l. a Ticket, and ſold as cheap as for Specie, at the Eagle and Child on Ludgate Hill.

AT the GREAT WHEAT-SHEAF painted upon a Copper Plate, next the Bell-Savage-Inn on Ludgate-hill, are ſold all Sorts of rich Foreign Silk, with Gold and Silver Brocades: Likewiſe plain and flower'd Velvets for Gowns and Petticoats, and Coach Linings; with all Sorts of Silk Morning-Gowns, for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Perſon ſhall give for them, and the abovelaid Goods as cheap as for Specie.

PHill. Baſs, at the Black Lion on Ludgate-hill, ſelleth all Sorts of rich Silks, and fine Durch ſtained Sattins, rich Silk Morning-Gowns, and all Sorts of Mercery Goods, for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Perſon ſhall take them for, and the abovelaid Goods as cheap as for Specie.

MOrning Gowns for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoe's (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

SIR William Read, Her Majeſty's Principal Oculiſt and Operator for the Eyes, and in that Quality ſworn Servant in Ordinary, as he was to His late Majeſty King William III. is conſtantly to be adviſed with at his Houſe in Durham-yard in the Strand, London; where he will give careful Attendance to all Her Majeſty's Seamen and Soldiers that have or may receive any Injuries in their Sights: Which Work he has performed ſince the Beginning of the laſt War, has cured above 2000 Seamen, beſides Soldiers in the Land Service, and is the firſt Perſon who ſhewed this Generoſity, and ſtill continues it; ſo that others who pretend to it may be juſtly ſuſpected to deceive the Publick, and leſſen his Reputation.

ALL Sorts of rich Brocaded Silks, Japanned Sattins, Thread Sattins, and Variety of other Things made into Morning-Gowns, large and well lined, being a freſh clean Parcel, and to be ſold very cheap, at Mrs. Attaway's, a Capmaker and Milliner, in Devereux-Court, in the Paſſage from the Temple to Eſſex-Buildings. Note, There are Gowns from 7 l. to 1 l. Price, and the loweſt Price writ on each.

MR. Fary's 16 s. Bohee Tea, made of the beſt Green Tea, by Men of real Judgment, thought very nigh equal to the beſt Foreign Bohee Tea; but ſadly railed at by half ſkilled Traders in Tea; who at this Time of Day are ignorant that all Foreign Bohea, tho' there be White in it, by Infuſion will change Colour, and is artificial, except Pecko, that will remain of the ſame Colour. Sold by himſelf only at the Bell in Grace-church-ſtreet.

PErpetual Office at London-ſtone for raiſing Money upon Marriages in City or Country, where (only) real Security is given, that for 6 d. Entrance, and 2 s. per Quarter, they will gain 150 per Cent. clear and certain, and may gain up to 1, 2, 3, or 400 l. The Seventh Dividend of 105 l. 2 s. was paid the 4th Inſtant, in which, for 8 s. the Eight firſt entered had each near 12 l. and the reſt 5 s. for every 2 s. and about 100 l. more will be paid next Month. The Apprentices alſo in this firſt Quarter, for 2 s. 6 d. have received each 20 s. clear: And this firſt Quarter for the Children is prolonged to the 14th of next Month, and for the future to begin and end with the double Tickets, and the Dividend paid on the ſecond Wedneſday after. Here is no Impoſition of paying more than you deſign, nor Delay of paying what is your Due. Propoſals at the Office gratis. Beware of pretended Offices, where is no Security; nor can they act by any Right or true Rule, and therefore inconſiſtent with themſelves.

MRs. Symonds's Sale of heavy Plate and other valuable Goods, which are to be ſeen at the Naked Boy and Coat in Henrietta-ſtreet being very near full, all Gentlemen and Ladies are deſired to be ſpeedy in taking out Tickets, which are to be had at the Houſe above-mentioned, at Mr. Syball's, Silkman, near the Conduit in Cheapſide, Mr. Lillie's at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings, Croſs's Coffee-houſe in Cary-ſtreet, Lincoln's-Inn-fields, Mr. Bates's at the Hat and Star, a Cane-ſhop, in Bookſellers row in St. Paul's Church-yard, and all the other Places mentioned in the Propoſals.

RObert Peters's Sale of a 1000 l. for half a Crown, that was advertiſed to be drawn in the Great Room in York-Buildings the 23d Inſtant, is obliged to be deferred till after the Lord Mayor's Day; being to be drawn at Sadlers Hall. Tickets to be had at Mr. Marret's the Golden-Ball in Devonſhire-ſtreet without Biſhopſgate-ſtreet; Mr. Meaſure's at the Dial near Serjeants-Inn, Fleet-ſtreet; Mr. Lillie's, the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; Mr. Hill, Goldſmith, in Covent-Garden; Mr. Andrews, Glover, in Charles-Court the Strand; Rice's Coffee-houſe in the Hay-Market; Child's in St. Paul's Church yard, George's in Piccadilly, and at the Houſes, Numb. 14 and 28 in Glocester-ſtreet; where the Tickets are rolling up, and the Plate is to be ſeen.

THE Royal Beautifier; or the greateſt Coſmetick in the World: Being the moſt incomparable Thing in Nature for the preſerving and reſtoring a good Complexion: It even to a Miracle fortifies the Skin againſt Wind and Sun, and makes ſuch as are pale and wan, look freſh and lively, and have a charming Countenance. It certainly takes away Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Scurf, Morphew, and Sun-burning; and miraculouſly makes the Complexion plump, freſh, ſmooth, and delicately fair, even to Admiration. It having met with great Applauſe amongſt Perſons of Quality and others; ſo that Perſons daily reſort from all Parts of the Town to ſerch it. To prevent Counterfeits, it is only ſold at Lemery's Head at Charing Croſs, at 2 s. 6 d. per Pot, with Directions at large.

SAmuel Maynard, living in Lyde's-Court near St. Giles's Church, having had the Rheumatiſm and Sciatica for ſome time, which hindered me from following my Buſineſs; but at laſt, to my great Satisfaction, I happily heard of Mr. Moore, Apothecary, at the Peſtle and Mortar in Abchurch-Lane, London, and by taking his Advice and Medicines, I am now ſo recovered, that I am capable of performing my Buſineſs as formerly. Witneſs my Hand, February 3. 1710. Samuel Maynard.

A Moſt incomparable Paſt for the Hands, far exceeding any Thing ever yet in Print; it makes them moſt delicately white, ſlick, and plump, fortifies them againſt the Sharpneſs of the Air, or Scorching of the Fire; a Hand cannot be ſo ſpoiled but the conſtant Uſe of this Paſt will recover it. Sold only at Mr. Allcroft's, Toy-ſhop, over-againſt the Royal-Exchange, at 1 s. 6 d. the Pot, with Directions.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertiſements are taken in.